

# WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,  
and workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, November 28, 2003*

## MPDC STRESSES SAFETY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

With the holiday shopping and travel season now in high gear, the MPDC encourages everyone to include some common-sense safety tips on their holiday lists this year. Don't let the spirit of giving lull you into giving burglars, stick-up men, pickpockets and con artists a better chance to ply their trades. Crooks love the holidays as much as everyone else, because they know that people tend to let down their guard and create opportunities for crime. But there are simple steps you can take to help make your holidays safe and crime-free. Again this year, the MPDC is reminding residents of a variety of holiday safety tips – whether you're shopping, out for the evening or taking a trip out of town. In addition, the holidays are a time when scam artists may show up at your door, posing as delivery personnel or charity volunteers. The MPDC has tips for avoiding being ripped off. Finally, the holidays are a great time to take (or update) an inventory of household items, which can be extremely helpful if your home is burglarized.

- ① Get details on holiday safety tips at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/season/winter.shtml>
- ① To enhance police visibility this holiday season, the MPDC is increasing foot and bicycle patrols in commercial districts and other key areas in all seven police districts.
- ① With more people than ever shopping online this holiday season, the potential for Internet fraud is increased. Learn more about the resources of the Internet Fraud Complaint Center by clicking on:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/consumer/netfraud.shtml>

## COMMUNITY PROSECUTION COURT REPORTS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

While focused law enforcement and neighborhood problem solving are critical elements of the MPDC's "Policing for Prevention" strategy, it is equally important for residents to stay informed about criminal cases once they reach the court system. That way, community policing partners can see if their crime prevention and problem-solving efforts are standing up in the courts, and residents can better hold prosecutors and the judicial system accountable. To support this process, the Community Prosecution Section of the US Attorney's Office publishes a monthly prosecution update for each of the seven police districts. These "court reports" summarize recent court cases in that particular district, with information about the crime, the defendants, the outcome and the sentence. The court reports, which are published in PDF, also provide useful contact information for the USAO Community Prosecution Team in that police district.

- ① Access the most recent court reports on the MPDC website at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/courtrpts/courtrpts.shtml>
- ① For more information about Community Prosecution in DC, click on:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/commpros.shtml>
- ① Learn more about Policing for Prevention, and how you can get involved, at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/pfp/pfp.shtml>

## HOMICIDES IN DC DECLINE IN NOVEMBER, DOWN MORE THAN 7% FOR THE YEAR

The number of homicides in the District is down sharply this November when compared with the same month for the past two years, according to preliminary statistics from the MPDC. As of November 28, DC had recorded 15 homicides this November. That compares with 31 murders last November and 27 in November 2001. Year-to-date, homicides in the District are now down more than 7 percent in 2003 (223), compared with the same time last year (241). The overall reduction in homicides represents a major turn-around from earlier in the year, when murders in DC were up more than 25 percent in early May. The most dramatic decline has corresponded with the enactment of the Crime Initiative that Chief Ramsey announced in late August. Since then, homicides are down by more than one-third when compared with the same period last year, and overall crime is down significantly as well.

## CIVILIAN JOB VACANCIES IN THE MPDC

The MPDC is accepting applications for four different civilian positions within the agency. Two of the vacancies—a Grants Program Manager and a Uniform Crime Report Coordinator—are in the Research and Resource Development Section of the Office of Organizational Development. A third position is for a Legal Instruments Examiner with the MPDC's Records Division, Uniform Crime Reporting Section. The fourth vacancy is for a Management Analysis Officer with the Department's Testing and Standards Branch. All of the positions have unique duties, qualification requirements and ranking factors, and the application deadlines are upcoming.

## NEWS & NOTES

**GLBT Diversity Training Roundtable.** Residents interested in discussing the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) diversity training provided to MPDC officers are invited to a community roundtable at the University of the District of Columbia on Wednesday, December 10, at 7 pm. Details at <http://glu.gaydc.net/newsroom/index.htm#roundtable>.

**National Night Out Kudos. Congratulations, DC!** The National Association of Town Watch, organizers of the annual National Night Out against crime, recently recognized the District as one of the top large cities that participated in the 2003 crime prevention event this past August. Thanks to all MPDC officers, community leaders and residents who made this year's celebration such a success. And mark your calendars: NNO 2004 is August 3, 2004. Details at <http://www.nationaltownwatch.org/nno/award.html>.

**Ask the Chief.** Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues—and takes phone calls and e-mails—during his monthly “Ask the Chief” program on WTOP radio, on Thursday, December 4, from 10-11 am. Details at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/media/media.shtm>.

**Online Sex Offender Registry Expanded.** The District's online Sex Offender Registry was recently expanded to include both Class A and Class B offenders, doubling the number of entries available for public review via the MPDC website at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/sor/sor.shtm>.

- ① Get up-to-date statistics on homicides, arrests and firearm recoveries at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/crstats.shtm>

- ① The Crime Initiative gives commanders greater flexibility in setting officers' schedules to address emerging crime patterns in DC neighborhoods. Chief Ramsey has indicated that the Crime Initiative is likely to continue through the end of the year.

- ① For complete details about all four vacancies, including application procedures, go to the MPDC's civilian employment page at:

<http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/civilian.shtm>

- ① Interested in becoming a sworn police officer with the MPDC? The Department is accepting applications online at:

<http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/officer.shtm>

### DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 11/28/03)

- 2003: 223
- 2002: 241
- % Change: -7.5%

Adult Arrests (week end. 11/22/03)

- Total: 840
- Drugs: 148
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 25
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 39

Firearm Recoveries (as of 11/25/03)

- Total: 1781
- November: 153

Traffic Fatalities (as of 11/28/03)

- 2003: 61
- 2002: 48
- % Change: +27.1%